Police Kept SLA Data From FBI

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Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19 — A Symbionese Liberation Army notebook referring to Patricia Hearst and obtained by police three weeks prior to her kidnaping was not called to FBI attention until "well after" her abduction, it was disclosed today.

"I was not aware of any of the information prior to the Hearst kidnaping," FBI special agent in charge Charles W. Bates told reporters.

Revelation of an apparent lack of coordination between the FBI and one or more East Bay area police departments followed a San Francisco Chronicle story that the notebook was among documents confiscated from a Concord house partially burned in an arson attempt Jan. 10.

Bates said the pre-kidnap aspects of the SLA case had been handled by the Oakland and Concord police departments.

There was no immediate comment from Oakland police or the Alameda county district attorney, but Concord Police Chief James L. Chambers quickly denied his department was involved.

Chambers said the Concord house—an alleged SLA headquarters — was in unincorporated Contra Cost County territory rather than in Concord proper, so the sheriff's office took over investigation of the fire.

He said he understood all evidence found in the home—the notebook and other documents reportedly bearing names of businessmen and others as potential kidnap targets—was turned over to Oakland police.

That was because SLA

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members Joseph Remiro and Russell Little had been captured in a police shootout just prior to the SLA house fire and were being held as suspects in the assassination of Oakland school superintendent Marcus Foster.

Later, local and federal law enforcement authorities issued a joint statement in which they said some parts of the Chronicle's story should be put in context.

"We will make no further comment with reference to this matter at the present time," said the statement, which was signed by Bates, Berkeley and Concord police officials and district attorneys from Contra Costa and Slameda Alameda counties. "We will do so only when we are satisfied that further comment will not jeopardize the pending cases and investigation.

To Randolph A. Hearst, the notebook finally called to his attention by a Chronicle reporter was "unquestionable proof" that his daughter was "in no way" a conspirator in her own kidnaping, but was marked as a potential victim by the SLA weeks before it happened Feb. 4.

Asked whether he shared Hearst's feeling Bates said, "I won't know until I talk to the people who wrote her name in there."

Hearst said he first learned of the notebook Thursday night when newsmen called for reaction. In a written statement today, he said he called the FBI, which told him the book was seized Jan. 11 after fire broke out at a Concord, Calif., house police believe was an SLA headquarters.

"If they knew her name was in the book and knew it was an SLA hideout, of course they should have notified us," Hearst said in his statement.

"But it's possible they had reams of material to go through before they got to this.

"With a mass of stuff to go through, it's possible this green book didn't come up until it was too late."

The FBI declined to discuss details of the notebook's contents.

But the Chronicle quoted unnamed investigators as saying the references to Miss Hearst included:

- "At U.C. (University of California) — daughter of Hearst."
- "Junior. Art student . . . teams; guns; action."
- "Patricia Campbell Hearst, on the night of the full moon of January 7."

The Chronicle said the notebook also mentioned the names "Yolanda and Camilla" and "David and Margarieta."

Among alleged SLA members sought for the Monday bank robbery in which Patricia Hearst was a participant—whether willingly or not—is Camilla Hall, former Minneapolis welfare worker.

According to Bates, the notebook was not given to the FBI until after the SLA's first "communique" claiming responsibility for the abduction was received by a Berkeley radio station.

That was three days after Patricia was dragged screaming into the night—not to be seen publicly again until last Monday in the San Francisco bank robbery.